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Statement of Rep. Henry A. Waxman

March 18, 2005

These subpoenas are a flagrant abuse of power. Congress is turning the Schiavo family's personal tragedy into a national political farce. The committee has no business inserting itself in the middle of an excruciating private family matter.

These subpoenas are unenforceable. A committee subpoena must be used to gather information. But these subpoenas are dictating the medical care that Ms. Schiavo receives. Congress has no authority to use subpoenas to tell doctors what treatment they can and cannot provide to any individual under their care.

These subpoenas were issued unilaterally by Tom Davis, acting at the request of the Republican leadership. There was no vote and no opportunity to debate the issue in committee. The process was a perversion of democracy.